

## Wey Valley Circuit Prayer Diary July 2026 – Part I

### A LEADING QUESTION...

...WHY DO I  
WRITE THE  
CIRCUIT PRAYER  
DIARY?

The answer is a lifetime of experience.



I was born in Bromley into a Salvation Army family.

The earliest prayer I learned was *God Bless Mummy, Daddy, Ken, Geoff, Mike, Paul and Sue* who were my brothers and sisters.

The first prayer I remember from Sunday School (age 4) I have sung to my children and grandchildren many times...  
*... A little star peeps over the hill, the woods are quiet and the birds still, the children clasp their hands in prayer for the love of God is everywhere.*

We moved to Dorset.

At 13 I started pumping the organ for 17 shillings and 6d a year!

I became a member of the Methodist Church at the age of 18.

I led the Youth Club.



We used to travel across the New Forest showing films to chapels with small congregations.

One night the film broke! I didn't want the congregation to miss the end of the story, so I told them what happened and added some thoughts of my own.

Unbeknownst to me, one of the local preachers was in the congregation.

He called the Minister and said, *"That young man has talent, don't let him go!"*

God's call was getting louder...

I went to Cliff College and was supported by my home community too.

The **Methodist Church**

I became an accredited local preacher when I was 23.

I see parallels with the life of the prophet Samuel; God had called me to preach and within a year to also teach.

A lifetime later I was asked to take on the Circuit Prayer Diary from Jean Normington who had initiated it.

I mulled it over and one evening was led to Isaiah 6:8 *"Then I heard the voice of the Lord saying, "Whom shall I send and who will go for us?"* I took up the call!

## HOW DO I PREPARE EACH MONTH?

With prayer.

I have a matrix based on the dates of the liturgical seasons relevant to each month, from Advent to Advent. I add dates of note both recurrent and one-off. I use The Wey Forward to add activities in the circuit.

I use the Methodist Prayer handbook, the LWPT annual diary and the lectionary. I find resources online; the Methodist Church website is very helpful.

My daily devotions lead me in different Spirit led directions, from scripture I have been reading, to the words of a hymn popping into my head.

There are some wonderful challenging hymns, poems and prayers out there, that are relevant to our daily lives and mission.

Sometimes I find there is an opportunity to shared ideas across a few days or a week.

There are barren times when I struggle to identify something relevant, and then I might wake with a start as the Holy Spirit enlightens me with an answer.

I use lots of ideas and images / photos from my daily life or the past.

**I really do need your help as I would like to add more activities, and days of note.**

Please let me know either through Lucy in the Circuit Office and The Wey Forward, or via my email address which is listed in the Circuit Directory.

Please feel empowered to send me any prayer requests you want to share.

I can reference your name or protect your anonymity.

As we have entered that period of 'Ordinary Time' it is sometimes difficult to find prayers, and I refer to previous editions of the Prayer Diary and find relevant prayers.

---

**This month's prayers as based on the themes: *The constant presence of Jesus, Action for Children, Sea and Rural Mission Sundays, St Swithin, Mary Magdalene and the Apostle James.***

Bible references are from the NRSVA unless otherwise stated. Hymns are from Singing the Faith – StF, Hymns and Psalms – HP, The Methodist Hymn Book – MHB – Song Book of the Salvation Army – SBSA, Prayers MWB Methodist Worship Book, MPH Methodist Prayer Handbook)

### **Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> The Constant Presence of Jesus 1**

There are times in our lives when we struggle and feel down. Over the next few days reflect upon these words of Jean Holloway (StF 652 adapted):

*Lord, I come to ask your healing, teach me to love; all unspoken shame revealing, teach me to love. Take my selfish thoughts and actions, petty feuds, divisive factions, hear me now appealing to you, teach me to love.*

### **Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> Soothe away my pain and sorrow, hold me in love; grace I cannot buy or borrow, hold me in love.**

*Though I see but dark and danger, though I spurn both friend and stranger, though I sometimes dread tomorrow, hold me in love. (Ibid)*

**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup>** *No-one has time for me, nothing spoken, fill me with your love. As my grateful prayers continue, make the faith that I have in you more than just an empty token, fill me with your love. (Ibid)*

**Saturday 4<sup>th</sup>** *Help me to live for others, bind us in your love; stranger, neighbour, father, mother – bind us in your love. All are equal at your table, through your Spirit make us able to embrace as sister, brother, bind us in love. (ibid)*

**Sunday 5<sup>th</sup>** **Celebrate and Pray for the Ministry, Mission, Worship and Church Anniversaries followed by Lunch at Godalming 10.30am and Merrow 70<sup>th</sup> 10.30 am.** Woking Trinity 10.30am English speaking Congregation, 1.30pm Chinese Speaking Congregation, 6.00pm Foundry Worship and All who participate by their presence or online.

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup>** **The Constant Presence of Jesus 2** from StF 642 written by Lt Colonel Joy Webb, Salvation Army, founder of the Christian singing group [The Joystings](#).

*When I'm feeling down and sad, nothing much to make me glad. Help me to remember, you are there for me. When things seem so different, and very hard to understand, help me to remember, you are close to me.*

**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup>** *When no-one has time for me, nothing's like it used to be, help me to remember you are still with me. When I'm crying, deep inside, harder than I've ever cried, help me to remember, you are loving me. (Ibid)*

**Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup>** **It's hard to make a prayer** (StF 522 Ibid)

*Lord I should like to speak to you, for I know you're there! Every time I try, I find it's hard to make a prayer. Could you see what I am thinking and know that it's a prayer? Could you look into my heart and find you're welcome there? Could I bring you all my hopes and, my moments of despair. Could you take what I am thinking and know that it's a prayer?*

**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup>** *Lots of things I'd like to say, seem to disappear, and I don't feel sure that they're the things you want to hear! If I get it wrong sometimes, help me to know you're there, listening to me patiently, and you want my prayer! (Ibid)*

**Friday 10<sup>th</sup>** **Children at Prayer** (From *The Lion Book of Children's Prayers*, Lion Publishing)

Lord Jesus, I pray for those who are unhappy today; parents who have no food to cook for their children; who cannot earn enough money for their families; for children who are sick or wounded and frightened, those who are alone and without people to love them.

**Saturday 11<sup>th</sup>** Dear God, please guide the leaders of the different countries at the meetings where they try, by working together, to make the world a better and safer place. Help them to want peace rather than power, and show them how they can share the food in the world so that no one need be hungry. (Ibid)

**Sunday 12<sup>th</sup>** **Action for Children Sunday** Pray for all our churches in the circuit who provide activities for children; from uniformed groups to Sunday Schools, Youth Clubs and Messy Church! Bless all those who lead, encourage and support the Young People.

*God our Father, Creator of the world, please help us to love one another. Make nations friendly with other nations; make all of us love one another like sisters and brothers. Help us to do our part to bring peace in the world and happiness to all people. (Ibid A prayer from Japan)*

Pray for Action for Children, (formerly National Children's Homes) and any other similar organisations you know - that God will bless the work they do in caring for and supporting children and families.

**Sea Sunday** – A Global Day of Prayer, reflection, and action for the more than 1.8 million seafarers who keep the world moving by sea. This year the theme is "Harbours of Hope: The Church Alongside Seafarers" and emphasises the role of the Church as a place of welcome, safety, and hope for those who often work unseen for from home, under challenging conditions.

**Pray for the Worship Ministry and Mission at Addlestone 10.30 am, Weybridge 10.30 am, Byfleet 10.30am and All who participate in worship by their presence or online.**

**Monday 13<sup>th</sup> More from Children at Prayer:** When I pray, I speak to God, when I listen God speaks to me. I am now in God's presence. He is very near to me. Amen.

**Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup>** O Lord, open my eyes, to see what is beautiful: My mind, to know what is true; My heart, to love what is good. (Ibid)

**Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> St Swithin** born and educated in Anglo-Saxon Winchester – served as Bishop from 852-862. Remembered for his piety, humility, charitable giving and building churches. A true and loyal servant of the Lord and an example to us today. Also linked to the folk poem which suggests if it rains on 15<sup>th</sup> July it will rain for the next forty days...!



**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup>** Give thanks and pray for the Ministry and Mission of all those in the Circuit who serve the Lord as St Swithin did: the Ministers, Local Preachers, Worship Leaders, Pastoral Visitors, Stewards, Circuit and Church Administrators, Lay Workers and Volunteers (with the elderly, vulnerable adults, young people and children's groups), Musicians, Readers, Flower Arrangers, Refreshment Providers, Cleaners, Caretakers, and any other volunteers who give their time and talents – and All those who share in Worship in person or online.

**Friday 17<sup>th</sup>** Pray for the Ministry and Mission of ['The Street Angels'](#) in Guildford and Woking and elsewhere, who like St Swithin, serve those in need on a Friday and Saturday night; pray that God will bless the work they do. Amen.

**Saturday 18<sup>th</sup>** Pray for the Ministry and Mission of [Clothes 4U](#) at Knaphill 10.00am – 12.00 noon.

PART II OF THE PRAYER DIARY WILL BE AVAILABLE FOR SUNDAY 19 JULY 2026.

Written by Graham Warr, Woking Trinity, supported by Dan Warr Schori.